

DREYER
Appl. No. 10/606,783
May 9, 2006

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

The status of the claims is as follows. claims 19-43 are canceled, and original patent claims 1-18 are pending. The independent claims 1 and 12 have been amended in this response to recite that the conveyor belt is supported "top of the conveyor idler." Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in Figure 1 and at column 9, lines 4-5. These claims were also amended to add a final "thereby" clause explaining that the claimed locking mechanism "prevent[s] the conveyor belt from running backwards." Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at column 9, lines 6-13.

Applicant's representative appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Hess during the telephone interview conducted on May 8, 2006. At the interview, the differences between the independent claims as compared to the teachings of Hagerman and Maurer were discussed. It was agreed that with the above amendments to claims 1 and 12 and the tenuousness of the 103 rejection, that this amendment would be entered, the outstanding rejection withdrawn, and the application passed to allowance.

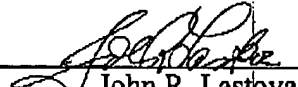
Accordingly, this reissue application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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